quantity of timber in so short a period as recommended by the Committee. But if the work is pushed through which the Government are insisting, it may be possible to bring down the timber perhaps in 1103 itself. This was the policy announced by me in presenting the budget statements for 1102, and I may assure the House that the policy will strictly be adhered to and every endeavour will be made to bring down all available timber during the coming year. Hence the provision for the continuance of the Tramway. The House will also be pleased to observe that under 'Tramway' a provision of Rs. 15,550 is made for the purchase of some locomotive boilers. To those who have travelled in the Tramway recently the rickety condition of the engines must be a matter of experience. These are, therefore, absolutely necessary for the working of the Tramway during the coming year, and hence the provision.

I think, I have now been able to convince the House in a way as to the necessity of the provisions made under 'Forests' and 'Tramway' for 1103, and I hope that they will find their way to pass the whole amount. If the Members still entertain any doubt on the question, I am sure that my friend, the Member for 'Forests' will be able, when his turn comes, to present an irresistible case in defence of the policy adumbrated above, which, it is not in my province to go into in further details.

Education.—I now pass on to the Education Department, and I heartily congratulate the Member for 'Education' for his ability to secure larger amounts year, after year and for thus being able to decisively defeat the Member for 'Public Works' during the last three years in the race for expenditure to which I referred when presenting the budget estimates of 1101 M. E. Reviewing the growth of expenditure under 'Education' then, I observed that 'at this rate of growth it will be impossible to finance education a few years later, unless adequate steps are taken to provide permanent sources of revenue for meeting the expenditure.' This alarming growth of expenditure on 'Education' is not, however, a feature of our State alone. It is a matter of strange coincidence that, when I was making this observation, the Finance Member for Travancore too was at the same time before the Travancore Legislative Council, characterising the growth of expenditure on 'Education' there as 'staggering' and was remarking that "within the last 16 years the expenditure on Education has risen by 528 per cent (from Rs. 7.55 lakhs in 1085 to Rs. 30.87 lakhs in 1101). This disproportionate growth cannot but be viewed with serious misgivings. . . . . But I am sure

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the House will agree that a headlong, impetuous career must be checked. Accordingly, in this budget Government have provided only just sufficient funds as will enable the department to carry on for the next year, and nothing substantial is provided for further development." ..... Such is the position in Travancore.

The problem of our Government too is just the same. 'Education' is undoubtedly a primary obligation of Government, and we have to discharge that duty to the people at whatever cost. In 1099 the cost of education came to Rs. 9.89 lakhs only; in 1100 it rose to Rs. 11.17 lakhs; in 1101 it came to Rs. 11.61 lakhs; the revised estimate for 1102 is fixed at Rs. 12.47 lakhs and the allotment for the coming year at Rs. 13.20 lakhs. There has thus been a rise in expenditure of nearly 3½ lakhs of rupees even during the last three years. This would clearly show that the Government have not so far stinted any money for the improvement and development of this department so closely connected with the material well-being and progress of the subjects of the State, and that in spite of the limitations placed on their finances.

The Special Finance Committee is examining the whole question, and we await with interest their suggestions for retrenchment, etc., in this department.

The variations having been explained in the Memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House by further elaboration.

Medical Department.—Turning next to the Medical Department, I may state at the very outset that the two distinguishing features of the next year's budget estimates of this department are the provision for the entertainment of additional nursing staff and the increased provision under 'Cost of medicines'. To those, if any, who may be inclined to ask why the matter of appointing additional nursing staff could not wait for the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee I have only to say that the matter has been pending with the Government for long, and that, dealing as the department does, with human lives which should not be trifled with, Government considered that it would but be a matter of justice to the bed-ridden patients in the hospitals that additional staff should be provided for with as little delay as possible. I think that such or similar sentiments have also been expressed by Members on the very floor of this House. The staff is, however, provided for only temporarily pending the report of the Special Finance Committee. I fully hope and confidently believe that this explanation will quite satisfy the House.

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